



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

PM82/0312

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN
1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. , SUITE 60
WASHINGTON DC 20236-5339

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | TOTAL CLAIMS | EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT | DATE MAILED |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 09/147,175 | 02/25/99 | 008 | WOOD, K 3632 | 03/12/01 |
| First Named Applicant | DILL, 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days. | | | |

TITLE OF INVENTION **DEVICE FOR HOLDING A PAPER SHEET**

| ATTY'S DOCKET NO. | CLASS-SUBCLASS | BATCH NO. | APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | FEE DUE | DATE DUE |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| 3 | P3120-8014 | 248-473.000 | D30 UTILITY | NO | \$1240.00 | 06/12/01 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/147,175

Applicant(s)

Dill et al.

Examiner

Kimberly Wood

Group Art Unit

3632



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to 2/5/01

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-16 and 18-21

☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☒ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____.

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

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This is the fourth office action for serial number 09/147,175, entitled Device For Holding A Paper Sheet, in response to Amendment C filed on February 5, 2001.

Response to Amendment

The applicant attempted to amend the specification after the word "plate 33" but, failed to indicate to which page and line the amendment should be inserted. Based on this error the amendment could not be entered.

Reason for Allowance

Claims 13-16 and 18-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not disclose, in regards to claim 13, a first holding element having two bearing zones, and a second holding element having a protruding section, the first and second holding elements defining between them a space having a top and a base, said space opening upwards for accommodating the paper sheet, with the top of said space wider than the base of said space, with a greater gradient near the top relative to near the base of said space, and the first holding element comprises a recess between the bearing zones. In regards to claim 16, the prior art of record does not disclose a first holding element having two bearing zones, and a second holding element having a protruding section, the first and second holding elements defining between them a space having a top and a base, said space opening upwards for accommodating the paper sheet, with the

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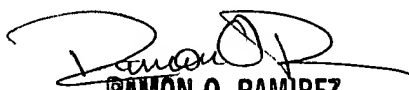
top of said space wider than the base of said space, with a greater gradient near the top relative to near the base of said space, and the first holding element is mounted on an articulation interconnected to an actuating body fitted with a compressible element in position against the second holding element. In regards to claim 21, the prior art of record does not disclose a first holding element having two bearing zones, a second holding element having a protruding section one surface and two bearing zones on an opposite surface; third holding element having a protruding section one surface and two bearing zones on an opposite surface; a fourth holding element having a protruding zone.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly Wood whose telephone number is (703) 308-0539. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168. The fax numbers for filing formal papers to the Group receptionist are (703) 305-3597.



Kimberly Wood
March 10, 2001



RAMÓN O. RAMÍREZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3632